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13 February 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director, Current Intelligence

SUBJECT: CIA Representation at U. S. Diplomatic and
Military Attache Regional Conferences Abroad

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Early last month [redacted], prior to his leaving, mentioned to me his discussion with you regarding the above subject and in this connection mentioned the Panama incident. I have the following thoughts to offer:

1. Military Attache Conferences. The executive agent for conducting these conferences is rotated among G-2, APOIN, and ONI, the last named usually holding the Pacific conference at Hawaii. In all cases in the last couple of years it is my understanding that the Agency has received an invitation to participate. There is no guarantee that such an invitation would be automatically received, though I am certain, because I have talked with them about this matter, that JIG would remind the executive agent in the event the Agency had been overlooked. Furthermore, if we got wind of such a conference and had not been invited I am confident that Partridge would be willing and able to tactfully bring the matter to the executive agent's attention. There is a separate question as to who should go from this Agency in any case. I would recommend that upon notification of such conference the proper selection could easily be made through consultation of the offices under the DD/I and bringing in GSO.

2. Diplomatic Regional Conferences. I would like to call your attention to the attached (State) Departmental Announcement of July 17, 1951, which discusses this type of conference and in paragraph 3.5 and 3.6 deals specifically with non-State Department participation. Paragraph 3.5 means that within the Department of State our friend at court would be the Special Assistant for Intelligence, either in reviewing our request if it went directly to the Regional Bureau or proposing our participation if it went directly to him. I discussed this problem almost a year ago with the State Department and was informed that not only are there many applicants for such conferences within the Department but that the only practicable basis for selection was the ability of the individuals to contribute to the work of the conference rather than how much education can they get out of the conference. The [redacted] case arose because of the personal acquaintance of [redacted] and George Megee and his office, and it would be my expectation that invitations to the Agency would likely arise out of such previous

functional responsibility and

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contact. As I have mentioned before in other contexts my own belief is that OCI officers can best establish such contacts by working more closely with OIR researchers who will in due course in many cases I believe, find it desirable to introduce OCI desk officers to political desk officers in the Department.

JAMES G. REBER
Assistant Director
Intelligence Coordination

cc: DD/I
AD/EE

P.S. - This was written before today's IAC meeting though I doubt affected that it is affected by the general's comment. If our case rests on CIA responsibility in such conferences I would favor going after an invitation directly.



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C O P Y

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REGIONAL CONFERENCE MANAGEMENT

1. Purpose of Regional Conferences

In general, regional conferences are held to increase the understanding between field and departmental officers on the problems, policies, and major foreign programs of the United States. The conferences also serve to focus the attention of all participants on the over-all problems of the region as well to provide a suitable medium for the personal exchange of ideas and official information.

2. Management of Regional Conferences

2.1 Full responsibility for the management of regional conferences is vested in the regional bureaus of the Department.

2.2 Conference management includes:

- a. Provision of a central point of contact to supervise preparations and disburse information.
- b. Responsibility for assuring adequate advance planning.
- c. Approval of membership of Washington delegation.
- d. Publicizing of future conferences in the Schedule of Events as far in advance as possible.
- e. Provision of general information on the background, purpose, and conduct of the conference to all Washington delegates.
- f. Development of the agenda in cooperation with the field posts and the functional and staff officers of the Department.
- g. Reporting fully to all areas concerned on conference discussions and decisions.

3. Selection of Delegates

3.1 Functional areas of the Department, on their own initiative or at the request of the regional bureaus, may nominate employees to participate in regional conferences. They shall be informed of agenda topics which concern their subject matter and shall participate in the briefing of representatives designated to support those topics at the conference.

- 3.2 Representatives should be selected on the basis of their ability to contribute to the work of the conference, and not on the basis of organizational representation.
- 3.3 In selecting representatives, consideration should be given to rotation of assignments in order to provide experience to a greater number of Departmental employees. However, this consideration should be secondary to obtaining the most competent persons available to handle the subject matter.
- 3.4 The attendance of observers to regional conferences will be subject to the approval of the regional bureau sponsoring the conference.
- 3.5 Decisions as to other-agency representation at regional conferences will be made by the regional bureau in consultation with the area of the Department concerned with the subject matter.
- 3.6 Only the United States Government agencies that have a direct concern with the subject matter of a conference will be represented. They will continue to be responsible for their own travel expenses.

(7-17-51)